

Hayden Room 7 pm

Call to order 7:08 pm by Chairman Champagne

Roll Call – Ronald Champagne, James Leonard, Jim Scullen, Norm Menard, John McCoy, Mike Spaziani,

Motion to accept the revised minutes from the January 15, 2013 meeting was made by James Leonard and seconded by Norm Menard. The motion was unanimous

Committee Reports –

Labor Committee

Mike Spaziani is working on contracts and spoke with union last week. He will get back with the union in 2 weeks. Many details need to be worked out.

Financial Committee

John McCoy – Budget numbers, where are they now and where do they need to be?

Blue Cross – Scott DiChristofaro has reached out to the broker and is working on getting some numbers and will get a draft to Mike.

Ron Champagne has some information and is looking for one number to be used. Blue Cross gave each district information and won't but together a dummy plan model with one number.

Scott is looking into – VFIS – hasn't heard from them not yet, but, one policy should be cheaper

Ron suggested using the budget for now, equipment won't change unless it's reduced.

Legal Committee

John McCoy – looking for resolution information, will send to Jim Scullin need to create one resolution for General Assembly. Each district will have to take the resolution to its members.

Jim Leonard - Can't post minutes to web site. Waiting for Secretary of State's office to get back.

Media Committee

Jim Leonard – Had hoped the Valley Breeze would be at this meeting. Marcia Greene was at the workshop. He has heard nothing from the Providence Journal.

Building Committee

Chief Findlay - First major purchases in five years for equipment and building would be a new quint to go into station. He wants to be sure there are dollars in the merger budget for future needs.

Ron Champagne – Cumberland Hill Fire Department has a truck line and money goes into budget for future needs.

Mike Spaziani applauds all the Chiefs and the work that they have done. He strongly suggested that the chairperson be a member of merger committee to conform to the other committees.

Jim Leonard – noted that Mike and Dana had volunteered at a meeting to be on the building committee
Ron Champagne – stated that Chief Findlay is chair. He said he asked him because he and the other chiefs and deputies were very knowledgeable.

After much discussion a motion was made by James Leonard to have a building committee with the two chiefs, two deputies and Mike Spaziani and Dana Jones. The motion was seconded by Norm Menard and carried.

Chairman's Report

Ron Champagne – The Jacobs report, everyone has an opinion, it was dated in October and the committee only got it now. He needs time to look at it.

Some Issues – Number of fire fighters

Amount of response time

Number of stations

Report says meets but doesn't cite back into a budget number. Chief Mansfield said the number of personnel, apparatus and stations was correct, then changed. Questions still unresolved are firefighter numbers and safety. Who will sign off on the report? What if someone gets hurt, lawsuits?

Jim Leonard felt that as far as manpower goes, Mansfield's numbers are correct. He felt the Jacobs report fixated on a number (tax rate) and ignored some of the other issues.

Ron Champagne suggested that the merger committee needed to get the opinion of an expert. There is a real need to verify the facts in the Jacobs report.

Mike Spaziani – You can't back in using an assumed tax rate.

John McCoy – People want to pay less for more services

Ron Champagne stated that Councilor Schmidt has learned a lot about the fire service and he doesn't see him an enemy. Scott Schmidt said he would be open to another pair of eyes. The committee agreed to hire Curtis Varone and Bill Giannini both are experienced and court certified. All bills will go to the CHFD. A \$300 per hour cap is set. They are hoping data available from IAFF. Looking at number of total hours – three weeks. These men are well respected in the fire service. The merger committee is looking for a fair assessment on three issues.

Public Comment –

Chief Cimino stated that Curtis Varone and Bill Giannini are 2 of the most respected in firefighters in Providence. Varone – lawyer and was Deputy Assistant Chief. The Mayor let him sit with Jacobs (Mansfield not there)

The next consolidation meeting will be March 5, 2013.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jim Leonard at 7:44 and seconded by John McCoy, the motion carried.